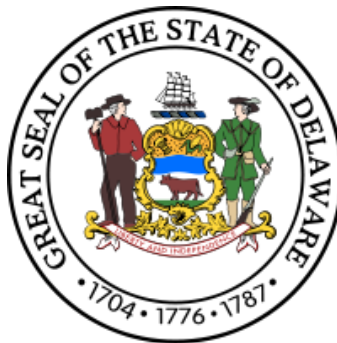




# 2016 Annual Report



# 2016 Delaware Harness Racing Commission

## Mission Statement

To protect, serve, and regulate the Harness Racing Industry and uphold its honesty and integrity in a competent and impartial manner.

## Purpose

The Delaware Harness Racing Commission (DHRC) regulates and oversees the sport of harness racing in the state of Delaware.

## Objectives

1. To protect, preserve and promote agriculture and horse racing through effective and efficient efforts to prevent and eliminate corrupt practices.
2. To ensure fairness in any decision affecting licenses and patrons; and ensure due process in administrative proceedings.
3. To be responsive to the public and licensees and provide information concerning the industry and DHRC operations.

# Table of Contents

## Executive Summary

DHRC Commission Board	1
DHRC Race Officials	1
DHRC Paddock and Other Personnel	1
Training and Accreditation	2
Licensing Office Data	3
Equine Drug Testing Summary	4
Human Drug Testing- Post Race	4
Race Track Handle Statistics	5
Lottery and Purse Statistics	6
Delaware Standardbred Breeders' Fund	7

# Executive Summary

## **Purse, Race and Handle Statistics**

Delaware enjoyed another very successful harness racing season in 2016, with 176 race days and 2,277 races total. Including stake races, Dover Downs (DD) and Harrington Raceway Inc. (HRI) distributed almost \$17.5M and approximately \$8.5M, respectively for total of almost \$26M in 2016. The total revenue for the casinos (from slots, tables, sports and pari-mutuel) was down 1.89%. The Net Funds for Purses was just over \$20M, which is a 5.22% gain. Including stakes payments, Delaware owners/trainers retained almost 84% of the total purse funds. When compared to 2015, the 2016 total on-track handle and total off-track handle combined was down 13.2%.

In 2016, expenses associated with Delaware Standardbred Owners Association (DSOA) deducted from the purse account were as follows: \$683,737 for operations; \$264,000 for pensions, and \$2,117,350 for insurance.

The Delaware Standardbred Breeders' Fund (DSBF) successfully promotes the production and improvement of Delaware-based Standardbreds, as well as the prominence of the state's harness industry in North America. The DSBF distributed about \$3.5M in 2016.

## **Commission Rules/Procedures**

Through adherence to the highest standards of integrity, the Delaware Harness Racing Commission (DHRC) effectively regulated the sport of harness racing in the First State. Various improvements were made to internal procedures and regulatory protocols. Continuous review and improvement is standard practice. Human drug testing protocols were assessed and improved, and additional changes will be made in 2017. The new licensing database is maintained by ARCI at no additional cost to the DHRC; and has improved database reliability, and ease of use. In 2016, the DHRC proposed and promulgated an amended qualifying rule changing requirements from 30 days to 60 days from race date to race date.

## **Commission Personnel**

The licensing office was restructured in 2014 at significant cost saving and enhanced efficiency. Holly Ventura has manned this office full-time since December 2014. In addition, Alyssa Anderson came on board for the licensing office in November of 2016 and has helped to further improve operations.

The more than twenty DHRC personnel are strongly encouraged to cross-train, thereby improving morale and operational flexibility. In addition, the DHRC maintains high standards of training and continues to participate in the national accreditation program. Additional

Paddock Inspectors were hired in 2016 due to turn over, and to meet anticipated an often high rate of illness which occurs when racing the winter months at Dover Downs. The additional personnel were needed to cover those duties during the winter of 2016-2017.

In 2016, Lauren Torres was hired as Chief Investigator (replacing Frank Sullivan) and Handley Orr as a new Investigator. Although the loss of Frank was significant, the additions of Lauren and Handley have filled the gap. The DHRC is fortunate to now have a fully staffed Investigative team, which also includes Dan Caldwell and Bob Delisi.

### **Drug Testing**

Both the frequency and quality of the drug screening programs are continuously assessed and adjusted for improvement. In 2016, a total of 3,075 pre-race tests were completed. Dalare Lab continues to service the Commission by providing analysis of post-race (blood/urine) and out-of-competition (blood) samples. A total of 2,464 (blood) and 2,074 (urine) post-race samples and 26 out-of-competition samples were collected and analyzed in 2016. In 2015, the DHRC passed new rules related to the use of cobalt. In order to monitor the use of cobalt and enforce the new regulation related to its use, the DHRC initiated a blood plasma cobalt testing protocol. A total of 385 samples were collected and analyzed for cobalt in 2016.

Improvements were made to the human drug screening program and a new and more accurate breathalyzer “machine” was purchased in 2014, as well as developing a new standard operating procedure for breathalyzer administration. In 2016, 8,635 breathalyzer screenings were conducted. 232 human urine samples were collected for drug testing, resulting in 14 positives for 2016. As stated previously, the human drug screening program was reviewed and improved in 2016 and further improvements are planned for 2017. The continued monitoring of possible drug use/abuse in human and equine participants is paramount to maintaining the highest standards of integrity in Delaware horse racing. Our drug testing sample collection and analytical protocols, as well as testing parameters, are constantly monitored for quality improvement.

### **Budget**

It is important to remember the state fiscal year (SFY) runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> and the annual report is based on the calendar year. In general, the following relates to the 2016 calendar year. Casino revenue is a source of funding for the DHRC and DSBF operations. Some costs are directly paid by the tracks, such as laboratory services (not shown in the DHRC Operating Budget), and other costs are covered by funds channeled through the Lottery Office to the DHRC. The majority of the DHRC budget is provided from lottery accounts and not the purse account. The SFY2017 DHRC budget was approximately \$1.6M, including

personnel, travel, contractual, supplies, and fingerprints. DHRC operations are performed well within budgeted parameters. In fact, the DHRC again plans to complete the SFY under budget.

### **Special Awards**

2016 was a very special year for Delaware Harness Racing. The United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA) recognized many Delawareans with National honors:

*The most prestigious award in Harness Racing for humans is the Proximity Award. It was bestowed upon "Team Teague" for their public service and allowing public access to WIGGLE IT JIGGLE IT. Besides George Teague, the Team included his sister Brenda, son Montrell, and trainer Clyde Francis.*

*George Teague, Jr. took home the W R Haughton "Good Guy" award for the second time. He also won the Harness Horsemen International "Dominic Frinzi" Man of the Year Award.*

*The 2016 "Horse of the Year," ALWAYS B MIKI, was bred and owned by Joe Hurley's Roll The Dice Stable, of Wilmington, DE. He also brought home honors for the "Pacing Broodmare of the Year," ARTSTOPPER.*

### **Conclusion**

As the 2014 economic impact study showed, Delaware horse racing is a vibrant and healthy industry, contributing \$182M to the State's economy annually and accounting for 1,540 jobs. However, the 2015 and 2016 reductions in gaming revenue and total handle cannot be ignored. The DHRC is mindful of and responsive to this situation. Many DHRC cost saving measures have been implemented since 2014 and that practice will continue. The DHRC constantly reviews internal procedures and we will continue the practice of on-going assessment and improvement to reduce costs and increase efficiency. The DHRC will also continue to identify methods and measures (education, rules, procedures, testing, and investigation) to ensure the integrity of racing in the First State.

National awards and recognition for Delawareans who have contributed greatly to the harness racing industry should be celebrated, but let us also be mindful that it will take all stakeholders (regulators, politicians, casinos/tracks, horsemen, and support businesses) working together to ensure the continued success of this important industry, which contributes significantly to our history and economy. Solutions which consider the needs of and provide a positive impact to both the horsemen and casino/tracks must be identified and implemented.

# 2016 Delaware Harness Racing Commission

## **Delaware Harness Racing Commission**

Chairman, Beverly Steele  
Vice-Chairman, Patt Wagner  
Commissioner, George P. Staats  
Commissioner, Jack Berberian  
Commissioner, Stephanie Liguori  
Executive Director, Mark Davis  
Counsel, Andrew Kerber, ESQ  
Counsel, Stacey Cohee, ESQ  
Administrative Specialist, Donna Krol\*

## **DHRC Judges**

Presiding Judge, Dan Kazmaier  
Associate Judge, Brian Manges\*  
Associate Judge, Brent McLaren  
Alternate Judge, Norman Short (fill-in)  
Paddock Judge, Wayne Truitt

## **DHRC Veterinarians**

Dr. John Whiston, DVM  
Dr. Annie Renzetti, VMD  
Dr. Regina Jensen, DVM (fill-in)

## **Investigative Unit**

Chief Investigator, Frank Sullivan - resigned  
Chief Investigator, Lauren Torres  
Investigator, Dan Caldwell  
Investigator, Handley Orr  
Investigator, fill-in, Robert Delisi\*

## **Blood Gas Analyst**

Wes Gerardi\*  
Jennifer Hobbs\*  
Trish MacDonald\*

## **Office of Licensing**

Holly Ventura\*  
Alyssa Anderson  
Robert Moore

## **Equine Identifiers**

Trish MacDonald\*  
Ryan Rogers\*  
Bob Delisi\*

## **BAC Technician**

Robin Killen

## **Chief Paddock Inspectors**

Jennifer Hobbs\*  
Dean Armstrong\*  
Kaitlyn Leonard\*

## **Paddock Inspector**

Jennifer Hobbs\*  
Dean Armstrong\*  
Kaitlyn Leonard  
Lynn Dodenhoff\*  
Joanna Miller  
Brittany Petras - resigned  
Mollie Moore  
Morgan Nichols  
Richie Cannon

## **DE Standardbred Breeders Fund**

Administrator, Judy Davis-Wilson

\*Denoted personnel trained in more than one job function

# 2016 Delaware Harness Racing Commission

## **Personnel Training and Conferences**

Cross-training continues to be a cornerstone of the DHRC personnel management strategy. Cross-training strengthens both the individual employee and the operation as a whole. DHRC personnel are cross-trained in multiple job duties whenever possible; and as noted on the personnel roster, many DHRC paddock staff have been trained in multiple job functions.

DHRC personnel are also encouraged to utilize the state training/education programs through OMB. The state offers courses in First State Financial system (FSF), management education, personal skill building and others.

In 2016, DHRC Executive Director, Mark Davis attended:

- Dan Patch Awards, Florida, in February
- USTA Board of Director's Meeting, Ohio, in March
- ROAP Continuing Education, Del Park, in March
- Harrisburg Sale, PA, in November

Chief Investigator, Frank Sullivan attended the 2015 Organization of Racing Investigators (ORI) annual training seminar.

## **Personnel Accreditation**

Each of the Judges working at Delaware's Harness tracks are fully licensed by the United States Trotting Association (USTA) and accredited through the University of Louisville. The Judges regularly attend continuing education sessions through the Racing Officials Accreditation Program (ROAP); [www.horseracingofficials.com](http://www.horseracingofficials.com)



# 2016 Delaware Harness Racing Commission

## Licensing Office Activity

LICENSE TYPE	FEE	# Issued	Year to Date
OWNER 1 YR	\$50.00	567	\$28,350.00
TRAINER 1 YR	\$50.00	102	\$5,100.00
DRIVER 1 YR	\$50.00	11	\$550.00
OWN/TRNR/DRIVER 1 YR	\$50.00	44	\$2,200.00
OWNER 2 YR	\$100.00	66	\$5,600.00
TRAINER 2 YR	\$100.00	13	\$1,300.00
DRIVER 2 YR	\$100.00	1	\$100.00
OWN/TRNR/DRIVER 2 YR	\$100.00	11	\$1,100.00
OWNER 3 YR	\$150.00	193	\$28,950.00
TRAINER 3 YR	\$150.00	16	\$2,400.00
DRIVER 3 YR	\$150.00	8	\$1,200.00
OWN/TRNR/DRIVER 3 YR	\$150.00	42	\$6,300.00
AUTH. AGENT	\$50.00	6	\$300.00
VENDOR	\$50.00	5	\$250.00
VENDOR EMPLOYEE	\$20.00	16	\$320.00
GROOM	\$20.00	324	\$6,480.00
TRACK PERSONNEL	\$20.00	74	\$1,480.00
TOTAL LICENSES		1,499	\$92,980.00
FINGERPRINTS	\$79.00	177	\$13,983.00
APPEALS	\$400.00	0	
FINES	vary	84	\$28,800.00
TOTALS			\$135,763.00

## 2016 Delaware Harness Racing Commission

### Equine Drug Testing Program

TYPE	DOVER DOWNS	HARRINGTON RACEWAY	2016 TOTALS
No. of Starters	11,218	6,884	<b>18,102</b>
Pre-Race Testing (BG, In-house)	1,833	1,242	<b>3,075</b>
Post-Race Testing (Dalare)	Urine: 1,266 Blood: 1,499	Urine: 808 Blood: 965	<b>Urine: 2,074 Blood: 2,464</b>
Out of Competition Testing (Dalare)	10	16	<b>26</b>
Cobalt (Dalare)	249	136	<b>385</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>4,857</b>	<b>3,167</b>	<b>8,024</b>

### Human Drug Testing Program and Searches

TYPE	DOVER DOWNS	HARRINGTON RACEWAY	2016 TOTALS
Human (Urine) Drug Testing	127	105	232
Breathalyzer (In-house)	5,044	3,591	8,635
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>5,171</b>	<b>3,696</b>	<b>8,867</b>
Truck/Trailer Searches	<b>228</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>410</b>

## 2016 Delaware Harness Commission Racetrack Handle and Funding Statistics

	TOTAL RACING STATISTICS					
	2013 Totals	2014 Totals	2015 Totals	2014 - 2015 Percent Change	2016 Totals	2015 – 2016 Percent Change
Live Racing Days	194	189	176	-6.9	176	0
Races	2,712	2,711	2,474	-8.7	2,277	-8.0
Races per Day (avg.)	13.9	14.3	14.1	-1.4	14	-0.7
Total On-track Live Handle	\$3,230,610	\$3,069,987	\$2,945,924	-4.0	2,286,306	-22.4
Total Off-track Handle	\$90,497,040	\$90,124,176	\$77,120,856	-14.4	67,172,168	-12.9
Total Live Handle	\$93,727,560	\$93,194,163	\$79,976,777	-14.2	69,458,474	-13.2

These figures are summed from the Monthly Administrator's Report



# 2016 Delaware Standardbred Breeders Fund

The Delaware Standardbred Breeders' Fund was created to oversee a state-based breeding program.

- The DSBF Board is made up of 11 appointed members.
- The DSBF Administrator, Judy Davis-Wilson, oversees both the Sires and Racing Programs.
- These programs consist of a minimum of 48 races per year equally divided between two of the state's race tracks; Dover Downs and Harrington Raceway.
- These 48 races include 2 Eliminations and a \$100k Final at each track, for each division.
- The DSBF strives to maintain a competitive level of purses and to keep the flow of hybrid vigor among Delaware bred Standardbreds, by annually contributing to the base of horses racing at the states' two harness tracks.
- The DSBF Administrator markets and showcases Delaware bred horses at major Standardbred sales (such as the Harrisburg Sale) and supports educational events. These annual events include the Harness Horse Youth Camp and Clyde Hirt Writers' Workshop.
- Another important annual event for the DSBF is Governor's Day, held at the Delaware State Fair each July.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Stallions Registered</b>	35	41	40	35	33
<b>Mares Bred</b>	394	360	282	282	217
<b>Yearlings Registered</b>	178	217	192	201	147
<b>2&amp;3 Year Old Payments</b>	432	422	510	473	468

Total Bonus Paid to DSBF 2, 3 & 4 Year Olds in DSBF Events: **\$449,703.**

Total Purses Paid: **\$3,558,000.00**

## **2016 Final Winners**

### **3 Year Olds @ Dover Downs / 4-11, 12, 13 & 4-14-16**

Seafood Scrappy, Use Your Noodle, Cicada's Song, Next Success

### **3 Year Olds @ Harrington Raceway/ 7-28-16**

Apple Bottom Jeans, Epic Smash, Chipoffthewall, Next Success

### **2 Year Olds @ Harrington Raceway / 10-5-16**

Jiggs, Henry The Dragon, Meantrotnean, Logan's Girl

### **2 Year Olds @ Dover Downs / 11-17 & 11-21, 22 & 23-16**

Bags To Riches, Crosby, Logan's Girl, Spoonful

